

Gamers' Republic
COMPUTER & CONSOLE ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE

HOLIDAY BUYERS' GUIDE



Winter '98

WE COME TO THE BUYER'S GUIDE

It's that wonderful time of year again... when you get to spend all of that money you've worked so hard for... on other people! Yes, 'tis the season to be herded into shopping malls like cattle, stand in long lines while the guy in front of you writes a check for a pencil, try not to die hanging lights on your house, and then finally give stuff away to people you hardly ever see. Sound like fun? To make things just a bit easier, we here at GR have kept the weary shopper in mind developing this handy guide (we also got a ton of free stuff). Most of the items on these pages (especially the first two) are not only affordable, but you can order many of them painlessly over the internet. If you're not yet connected to the internet, may

we suggest ordering up a cute little iMac like the one I'm typing on right now. These little boxes of joy are not only priced extremely right but anyone can use one. There's no better general-use home computer available anywhere, even grandma could hook it up, and the price is beyond right. Of course, should you choose to brave the highways, littered with people who can barely operate a can opener, let alone a motor vehicle, remember: be patient, and above all, courteous to your fellow man. Unless of course he cuts in front of you, then you should **RIP HIS FRIGGIN' HEAD OFF AND BOWL IT DOWN THE AISLE RIGHT AT THE SCREAMING KID WHO...** Oh, um, sorry. Happy shopping!

STOCKING STUFFERS

- A. Pikachu:** You can pick one of these little critters up at Yohan Plaza in LA, or check out Rising Sun (see web pages back page) for this and more Pikachu mania. **\$19.95**
- B. Tomagotchi:** Why not kill one over Christmas? **\$9.95**
- C. Link Bendable Key Chain:** Carry Link around forever! **\$ TBD**
- D. Lovematch:** Find the love of your life electronically! Not intended for use in or around Richard Simmons Seminars... by Innovation. **\$19.99**
- E. Telepathy Scope:** And once you've found her, tell her of your destiny together! **\$19.99**
- F. Game Boy Replacement Lens:** Now stop touching it! **\$6.99**
- G. NAKI PlayStation Memory Cards: 9mb & 6mb** They remember real good! They ain't bad lookin' either. **\$ TBD**
- H. NAKI N64 Rocker Pak** Works without batteries... Honest! Now you can shake 'til you're baked! **\$ TBD**
- I. N64 & PS Cable Extenders** Because sitting too close to the TV will make you go blind! **\$8.99**
- J. Sony Switch Block:** Say goodbye to the spaghetti behind your TV! Connects up to 3 consoles. **\$19.95**



STUFFED TOYS

- 1. South Park Plush Toys Boxed Set:** No South Park fan should be without this impressive quiver of little devils. Available through comic book stores and select retailers. **\$50.00 SET**
- 2. Nintendo Small Plush Toys:** Yoshi, Toadstool, Donkey Kong, Bowser, Luigi, Wario, Diddy Kong, Mario... The whole gang is here! You can order them through Nintendo's web site at www.nintendo.com. **\$29.99 SET**
- 3. Large Nintendo Plush Toys:** Bigger! Gotta have 'em! **\$29.99 EA.**

FURBYS

The hot item this holiday season will be these amazing little technical wonders. Furbys only speak their own language when you get one, but as yours gets to know you, it can learn up to 200 English words! Furbys blink, sing, talk and they even break wind! Just don't get 'em wet or feed 'em after midnight! Available at FAO Schwartz and other fine retailers. **\$34.95 EA.**



BANJO KAZOOIE PLUSH TOYS

These super cool Banjo plushes are just part of Nintendo's amazing plush toy line for '98 & '99. To find out more about these and all of Nintendo's amazing game memorabilia, check them out on the web at www.nintendo.com.

FROM AROUND \$10.00



CRASH BANDICOOT

Bring home the Bandicoot this holiday, and while you're at it, you might as well pick up all of his friends and enemies too! These Crash figures by Resaurus are spectacular. Amazing quality! **PRICES VARY DEPENDING ON STORE AVAILABILITY**



ACTION FIGURES & MODELS

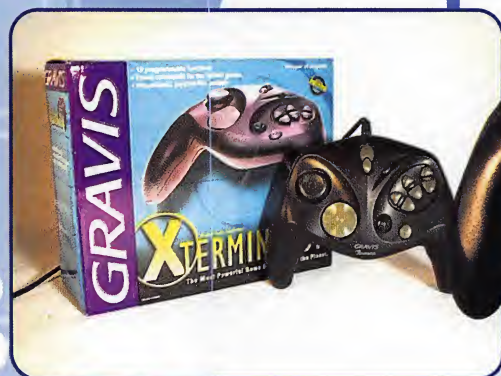
Action Figure and collectable prices vary from location to location. Try the major retailers first but if supplies are diminished check the comic book stores and select web sites on the last page of this guide.

- A. Aeon Flux: Cold cast and highly collectable. Check out Golden Apple or PEE WEE Comics on the web.
- B. Antz: General Mandible and Weaver, by Playmates. Very good quality figures.
- C. Dark Ages Spawn: The Black Knight, The Horrid, The Ogre, The Raider, The Skull Queen, The Spellcaster. These are insanely beautiful figures and they make the perfect gift for any male with a pulse.
- D. Duke Nukem: Duke, Pig Cop, Alexis, Night Strike Duke, Battle Lord, Octobrain, SWAT Duke. Treat 'em nice.
- E. It's the big Eva-01 we give away in Anime Republic. Check out Rising Sun on the web.
- F. Fist of the North Star: Jagi, Kenshiro, Raoh, Rei.
- G. Kiss Psycho Circus: McFarlane Toys have done it again! The second batch of Kiss toys rock the house!
- H. Tomb Raider: Lara, Lara with Stand. She's new and improved.
- I. Maxx: Cold cast, available through Pee Wee, Golden Apple and other fine comic book and collectable establishments.
- J. Middle Earth: Balrog of Khazad-dûm, Earth Balrog, Gandalf in Hobbiton, Gandalf the Grey, Gandalf the White
- K. Movie Monsters: Patrick and Eve from Species, Freddie Kruger, Jason, Leatherface. More joy from McFarlane toys.
- L. Zelda boxed set: Link, Zelda, and Gannon. These figures should be hitting stores in December.
- M. Queen Emeraldas: Queen Emeraldas & Tothiro, Herlock & Torisan, Queen Emeraldas & Umino. See the GR #6 Frontlines for details on these amazing figures.
- N. Resident Evil: Chris Redfield & Cerberus, Hunter & Chimera, Jill Valentine & Web Spinner, Tyrant, Zombie & Forest Speyer. Flesh-eaters and killers in the house!



GRAVIS XTERMINATOR

We tested many pads in and around the \$50 price range and came to the conclusion that the Gravis XTerminator is the finest joypad you can hook to your PC. **\$49.95**



CONTROLLERS & SUCH

Gamers love peripherals. It's a fact. And it's also a fact that some games require alternate forms of control (just try platforming on a PC using the keyboard... heinous!). But there are so many to choose from and so much dressed-up import junk out there that it's hard to shop smart. We've assembled a list of pads, wheels, sticks, and other new toys at varying price points that deliver big for the money.

CONTROLLERS

- A. Microsoft Sidewinder EX Sensor:** This gem of a pad reacts in tandem to your movements! It's also one of the most comfortable and well-made controllers we've ever seen. Definitely king of the high-line PC pads. **\$64.95**
- B. Thrustmaster ShockHammer:** Not only does it look like some cool watercraft, but it's priced right and feels excellent. A great alternative PlayStation pad if the stock one's not your bag...baby. **\$29.95**
- C. ASCII Sphere:** ASCII's innovative new PSX pad offers six different axes of movement and is based on NASA technology. A true breakthrough in control. **\$49.95**
- D. FragMaster:** It looks like a flight stick, but it's really the newest FPS PC controller! While it looks like you're piloting a UFO, it's designed to rack up awesome frags in Quake 2! Either way, abduct one this December. It's a fantastic device. **\$69.95**
- E. Madcatz Panther:** It's big, it's roomy, has a super feel, and it's got a trackball. One of the finest PC flight sticks for the money. **\$69.95**
- F. CH Products 3D Gamestick:** Features twist action and lap or tabletop functionality. It comes in a cool box, too. **\$49.95**
- G. Microsoft Force Feedback:** "Feel" flight as realistic as gaming provides. A serious PC stick for serious flyers. **\$149.99**
- H. The Glove:** It looks cool and is a quality N64 and PS device, but takes some getting used to. Try one before buying. **\$49.95**
- I. NAKI Dual Shock for PlayStation:** A solid second pad at a good price. **\$19.95**
- J. ASCII Grip:** For PSX RPG gamers who smoke or desire a free hand. Oh, that sounds bad. **\$29.95**
- K. Beatmania Turntable:** Get jiggy with Beatmania on the PSX with this ultra-cool controller/turntable. Currently available in Japan only and extremely rare. **\$69.95**
- L. Classic Trackball:** Are you digging all those great classic compilations on the Playstation? Why not try them as nature intended, with Nyko's new Trackball. **\$39.95**





INTENSOR CHAIR

For the gamer who has everything...and needs somewhere to sit! The Intensor Chair features adjustable vibration, and game sounds emit from it like they're crawling up your back and out of your crotch! It's a pricey number (although you can do without the sub-woofer) at \$299, plus another \$129 if you desire a base, but it delivers the goods, adding a new dimension between you and the action onscreen. There's even a new upgraded cushion set on the way for just \$14.95! If you get the base when you buy your Intensor, be sure to pick up a big flathead screwdriver if you don't have a cordless electric one.

INTENSOR CHAIR \$299.95
CHAIR BASE & LEGS \$129.95
SUBWOOFER \$169.95



- M. ASCII N64 Pad:** Hands down (get it?) the finest N64 pad money can buy. Makes me want to play *Mischief Makers* all over again! Great shape! **\$TBA**
- N. NASCAR Steering Wheel for the PC:** Its large, solid feeling, clamps down securely, and actually has a great feeling shifter sticking out of it! If you know a full-on gearhead, lay this puppy on him and he'll love you forever! **\$TBA**
- O. ACT Labs Steering Wheel for the PC:** Another excellent racing apparatus. ACT Labs' wheel looks and feels like a real sports car wheel with a thick cushioned grip. It also clamps to anything solid and performs brilliantly! **\$69.95**
- P. ASCII Wheel 64:** "Compact driving with a luxury feel." We agree. **\$49.95**
- Q. Altec Lansing Power Cube PC Audio System:** The one we use on all our PCs. An amazing bang for the buck! **\$149.95**
- R. NUBY Reality Vest for N64:** Feel the action...literally! Put this on a kid and watch him giggle for days. **\$69.95**
- S. NUBY PlayStation Cooling Station:** Finally! Keep your PSX cool and your CG running smoothly with this quiet fan that features a handy drawer for memory card storage. **\$29.95**

Import Dreamcast

This may very well be the ultimate gift of 1998. A Dreamcast with *Pen Pen Tricelon* or *VF3* (the best release titles before *Sonic* hits Dec. 17) is every gamer's dream. Realize, however, that US games will not work on the Japanese machine. If you buy the Japanese version (available now), when the U.S. DC hits here next Fall, SOA cannot help you should you have any problems. On the flip side, you'll be able to play all the hot imports no strings attached!

\$250-300



HARDWARE

When it comes to video game hardware, it's a buyers market. With the PlayStation Dual Shock rumbling in at \$129 and two special edition Nintendo 64s at \$129, hi-powered gaming is more affordable than ever. But there's even more to celebrate this year with the introduction of the amazing GameBoy Color and import Neo Geo Pocket! The color GB is everything we wished for and more with crisp sharp graphics and an ample supply of games on the way. The NeoGeo Pocket, while initially black and white (a color version is planned) and only available through finer import mail order houses (such as Japan Video Games) features clean, crisp graphics and all your favorite SNK classics in super deformed style, along with unique new titles and Dreamcast compatibility! Another great item this year is the Genesis 3. At \$29.99, it's an amazing bargain. With games starting at ten bucks, you can make off with an entire 16-bit set up for under fifty dollars!

HARDWARE:

- A. Playstation Dual Shock System:** With a bulging library of quality games in every genre, and amazing new games on the way, the PS remains the king of the consoles. **\$129.95**
- B. Purple or DayGlow Green N64 System:** You've got your Banjo, Mario, F-Zero, and now Zelda. Need I say more? At under \$200 (with a game), this is an entertainment value of titanic proportions. **\$129.95**
- C. Gameboy Color:** A joy to hold! **\$79.95**
- D. Super Lightboy:** Strap it onto your new Color GameBoy (or your old GameBoy as well) for maximum viewing performance. **\$9.95**
- E. GameBoy Camera & Printer:** Rolls of fun will keep the kids out of your hair for hours on end. Then later you can give it a go! **camera: \$59.95/printer: \$49.95**
- F. iMac:** As I said on page 2, this is the *ultimate* general-use home PC available today. And it's damn cute too! **\$1299.00**
- G. Sega Genesis 3:** Plays Genesis carts only (not compatible with 32X or Sega CD), but at \$30 it makes a great gift! **\$29.99**
- H. Neo Geo Pocket:** Call your favorite import mail order house for details on how to get yours! **\$50.00-100.00**
- I. Panasonic Palm DVD:** The ultimate in miniature mobile entertainment. Panasonic's fully-functional Palm DVD mimics the features of a full-size deck down to the hi-resolution 5.8" screen, which even displays in an optional widescreen mode. **\$1399.95**



ANIME

What would any holiday be without a stack of anime to watch? '98 has been a great year, with countless memorable movies, OAVs, and series available both subtitled and English dubbed. If you haven't experienced *Evangelion* yet, now is definitely the time, now that the entire collection has been released. Some other great series (which make fantastic, and very affordable gifts) are: *Key: The Metal Idol*, *El Hazard*, *The Slayers*, *Final Fantasy*, *Darkstalkers*, *Ruin Explorers*, *Dirty Pair Flash*, *Giant Robo*, *Gatchaman*, *Vision of Escaflowne*, *Saber Marionette j*, *Kishin Corps*, and *Blue Seed*. For movies and OAVs, look for *My Dear Marie*, *Hurricane Polymar*, *Revolutionary Girl Utena*, *Crystania*, *Slayers the Motion Picture*, *Twilight of the Dark Master*, *Golgo 13*, *Crystania*, *Tekkaman Blade*, and great DVD releases like *Ghost in the Shell* and *Ninja Scroll*. Check out the web sites featured on the last page of this fine guide for ordering information. There's a whole world of great stories and animation waiting.



BUYER'S GUIDE: Video

PC CARDS

If you've got a PC and plan to play any of the modern hardcore games (Solitaire not included), you've got to upgrade the video with a good 3D card. And while this is by no means a comprehensive list of what's available, these give you an idea of some of the variety that's out there.

- A. **Matrox Marvel G200TV:** This is not only a good-quality 8MB 2D/3D card, but is also a video capture card, grabbing both JPEG and MPEG formats, and includes an input box to hook up your VCR or camcorder. **\$299.00**
- B. **MAXI Gamer 3D² PCI:** A high-performance 3D card providing blazing-fast Voodoo² performance. Requires a 2D video card for all of your non-game activities...you do have those, don't you? **8MB: \$129.95/12MB: \$159.95**
- C. **MAXI Gamer Phoenix 2D/3D:** Brand new, this card is an all-in-one 2D/3D card. It's the perfect solution if you've run out of PCI slots. **\$129.95**
- D. **MAXI Game Theater 64:** You've upgraded your video, now what about the audio? Controls up to 4 speakers for full surround sound! **\$99.95**



WEB SITES TO CHECK OUT:

GOLDEN APPLE

www.goldenapplecomics.com

Explore the world of amazing resin and cold cast collectables and a plethora of stuff you'll want real bad.



Rising Sun

www.rsc-online.com

Import goods from the world of games, anime and more.

RSC Online
Your Anime Merchandise Super Store and So Much More!!

NCS

[national console support]

www.ncsx.com

Import games and peripherals.



ANIME VILLAGE.COM

www.animevillage.com

The place where you'll find Escaflowne, Saber Marionette J, and much, much more.



VIZ

www.viz.com

Great for anime and manga. VIZ has a vast selection of great titles to choose from.



CENTRAL PARK MEDIA

www.centralparkmedia.com

Vast assortment of anime and manga. Includes US Manga, Software Sculptors and more.

Central Park Media

A.D.V.

www.advfims.com

The motherload of subbed and dubbed anime. ADV has something for everybody, and... Evangelion!



PIONEER ANIMATION

www.pioneeranimation.com

From classics like Dragon Ball up to modern day gems like Kishin Corps. and El Hazard, Pioneer delivers a tradition of quality.

Pioneer

URBAN VISION

www.urbanvision.com

Great anime titles on tap, such as Final Fantasy, Golgo 13, Hurricane Polymar, Twilight of the Drak Master, and more!

URBAN VISION

ALL I WANT FOR XMAS

Although we all have Christmas lists as long as an Oliver Stone film, here are the top five things we'd better find under the tree this year. Got that, Santa?!

DAVE HALVERSON

1. Dreamcast (w/PEN-PEN)
2. Sonic Adventure DC
3. Blue Stinger DC
4. Zelda 64: OoT N64
5. Neo Geo Pocket SNK

DAVID HODGSON

1. Dreamcast IMPORT SYSTEM
2. Sega Rally 2 DC
3. Virtua Fighter 3tb DC
4. Sonic Adventure DC
5. Resident Evil toys

BRADY FIECHTER

1. Dreamcast IMPORT SYSTEM
2. Sonic Adventure DC
3. Zelda 64: OoT N64
4. Metal Gear Solid PSX
5. Pen Pen Tricelon DC

DAVE REES

1. Dreamcast IMPORT SYSTEM
2. Sonic Adventure DC
3. Zelda 64: OoT N64
4. Metal Gear Solid PSX
5. Half-Life PC

MIKE HOBBS

1. Dreamcast IMPORT SYSTEM
2. Sonic Adventure DC
3. Pen Pen Tricelon DC
4. Zelda 64: OoT N64
5. Virtua Fighter 3tb DC

MIKE GRIFFIN

1. Dreamcast IMPORT SYSTEM
2. Sonic Adventure DC
3. Virtua Fighter 3tb DC
4. Blue Stinger DC
5. Sega Rally 2 DC

RYAN LOCKHART

1. Dreamcast IMPORT SYSTEM
2. Zelda 64: OoT N64
3. Metal Gear Solid PSX
4. Sonic Adventure DC
5. New Socks FRUIT OF THE LOOM

BRYAN WILLIAMS

1. Zelda 64: OoT N64
2. Sonic Adventure DC
3. Pen Pen Tricelon DC
4. Virtua Fighter 3tb DC
5. Color GameBoy NINTENDO

WHERE TO BUY

JAPAN VIDEO GAMES

Order Hot Line 626-281-9282

With over 10 years of experience, Japan Video games is the place for import mail order.

GAME DUDE

www.gamedude.com or 818-764-9506

All of your vintage gaming needs under one roof. An amazing selection!

CHIPS & BITS

www.cdmag.com/chips.html or 1-800-600-4263

For all of your gaming needs across the board, plus hint books & strategy guides, board games and more.

SUNCOAST

In finer shopping Malls everywhere

Suncoast is the place for anime, movies, movie collectables, and all of your favorite VHS, DVD, and LD movies.

KAY-BEE TOYS

In finer shopping Malls everywhere

Popular toys as well as hard to find action figures and video games.

BABBAGES

In finer shopping Malls everywhere

The place to buy video games of all kinds, as well as game related action figures, Strategy Guides and peripherals.